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Monday, 3 September 2007 • Issue No. 1082 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

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50% of Yemeni people's decisions are manipulated by political parties

By: Almigdada Dahesh Mojali

SANA'A, Sept 1 — Five essential factors affect decision-making in Yemen: the security and intelligence reports themselves—most importantly, partisan interest, foreign interests, pressures exercised by the closer, and lastly pressure exercised on elections.

This was concluded from the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) seminar on decision making process in Yemen which was concluded from a poll conducted with society's elite.

The results of the poll revealed that decision-makers in Yemen—48.2 percent of the sample—are heavily influenced by their partisanship at the expense of the public interest. Secondly, according to the sample was the tribes' ability to influence decision-makers, based on the responses of 31.4 percent of the sample. Furthermore, 29.7 percent stated that decision-makers in Yemen give partisanship precedence over the public interest.

Representing the Yemeni elite—79% of the study sample—hold the view that engaging people in decision-making is important and subsequently 16 percent of them believe that it is important in some but not all decisions. Only 4.7

percent of them said that people's engagement in the decision-making process is not important.

In fact, those believing that decision-makers are influenced by regionalism, partisanship and tribalism at the expense of the public interest constitute only 18.3, 12.7, 18.1 percent respectively. However, respondents holding the view that decision-makers are influenced by sectarianism account for an extraordinary 54.6 percent of the total sample.

Furthermore, scientific research and studies have no influence on decision-making in Yemen, according to 61.9 percent of the Yemeni elite. This is followed on the back of reports released by civil community organizations and results of general censuses in terms of the lack of influence in light of the responses of 43 percent of the sample.

The poll clarifies that the social participation's instruments, such as elections, have considerable influence on the decision-maker in Yemen. However, such an option was selected by only 47 percent of the respondents.

In addition to this, more than 50 percent of the respondents said that decision-makers don't care about reports released by civil community organiza-

tions, in spite of the fact that 42 percent of the sample provided that decision-makers occasionally show interest in these reports civil community organizations.

It was further revealed that 19.6 percent decision-makers pay attention to the media, while 51.6 percent indicate that decision-makers sometimes show interest in the media while 28.8 percent told that decision-makers never care about media.

Regarding the influence of social groups on decision-making in Yemen, the workforce seems to have no influence on the process, according to the study sample. 18.5 percent of the respondents claimed that media personnel have strong influence in decision-making, while 56.6 percent of them stated that media personnel influence on the process is limited.

According to 52.1 percent of the study sample, politicians have strong influence on the decision-making in Yemen, while 35.7 percent of them stated that influence of such a social groups—the politicians—on decision making is limited. More than 60 percent of the sample confirmed that tribal sheikhs have demonstrated strong influence on the process of the deci-



Yemeni men queuing up for 2006 local council and presidential elections. Political party affiliation play a strong role in determining the results of elections where independents usually receive minimal votes.

sion-making while 30.7 percent said their influence is limited.

Military and security commanders have the strongest influence on decision-making in Yemen, according to 80 percent of the study sample.

The method followed by decision-makers in Yemen while taking any decision is correct according to 12.7 percent of the Yemeni elite, and somewhat correct in light of the responses given by 49.2 percent of them. On the contrary, 37.8 percent of the study sample considered the method, pursued by the decision-makers when taking their decisions as wrong.

Aids and advisors to the top decision-makers in Yemen are the most important source of information that they consult upon realizing any decision, said 42.4 percent of the Yemeni elite. Reports of intelligence and security agencies constitute one of the major information sources for the top decision-makers, according to 34.4 percent of the sample, followed by official institutional channels, as responded by 15.7 percent of the elite.

The decision-making mechanism gets changed when the decision taken concerns an extraordinary circumstances, or a fatal crisis, stated 48.2 percent of the respondents. 38.3 percent of them provided that such a mechanism sometimes gets changed, compared to 13 percent who are of the opinion that under no circumstances may the decision-making mechanism changed.

The majority of the Yemeni elite consider any decision that the decision-makers takes when encountering a crucial situation or a crisis such as Hunaish

Island Crisis or the War on Terrorism, as correct with respect to a long-term influence or somewhat correct with respect to a short-term influence. Their responses to both options were 39.4 and 38.7 percent, respectively.

55.3 percent of the sample agreed that the decisions are exclusively taken by the top political official and no other body exerts such overwhelming power and influence. While only 16.3 percent of the Yemeni elite somewhat agree with the provided option while 28.4 percent of them disagree with it.

What was most intriguing however was the phenomenon of corruption in the state's agencies, where 62% of those surveyed stated that they felt it had a strong influence on the process, 25.8 percent said that such a phenomenon often influences the process and only 8 percent of them mentioned that the phenomenon sometimes influences decision-making.

The targeted elite group for this conducted poll included 535 individuals, including politicians, academics, media personnel, civil society organizers, parliamentarians, intellectuals, shoura

council members, businessmen and advocates.

The current constitution of the Republic of Yemen contains a number of provisions that espouse the right of social participation in decision-making. Furthermore, they explain in detail the right of the public to participate in decision making via the elected bodies in various constitutional articles.

For example, Article 16 of the Constitution doesn't grant the executive authority the right to process or pass loans, guarantee the repayment of loans or get involved in a project necessitating spending from the State's treasury, without strict state approval.

Article 62 of the Constitution grants the Parliament the right to approve laws, to state general policies, the general plan for economic and social development, and the state's budget and final account. According to this article, "Parliament shall oversee works of the executive authority."

While, Article 78 stipulates that Parliament is the body in charge of approving economic and social development plans.

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In brief

TAIZ

National Association for Fighting Cancer holds its 5th annual Festival

Taiz, Aug. 31 — The National Association for Fighting Cancer held its fifth festival in Taiz on Thursday, August 31, 2007. The association clung to its motto "With Your Help, We Can Defeat Cancer", as its driving force to make intensive strides during the event.

Abdull-Wahab Al-Junaid, the governorate deputy, urged the Yemeni people to donate to the association fund to help obliterate the scourge of cancer: "Even a small proportion of what one would spend on Qat", he said. In fact, he has donated 30,000 YR from his own money and 200,000 YR obtained from the governorate's fund.

Likewise, Moneer Hayel announced during the festival that he will donate 2,000,000 YR million to the association. Whereas, Ahmed Abdullah As-Shaibani's Trading Group Companies will donate 500,000 YR. Furthermore, some of the parliamentarians and tradesmen donated sums of money ranging from 10,000 and 100,000 YR.

In addition to funding, the festival was characterized by in vivacious dancing, chanting and it drama skits, that attempted very successfully to portray a real-life story of how this incessant disease-cancer-affects the lives of children, adolescents and older aged people.

It was emphasized that anyone, whether they are men of the press, media, intellectuals, scholars, guides or average people alike, can realize an effective role to help combat the spread cancer.

SANA'A

Yemen receives two international prizes

Sana'a, Sept. 1 — The Republic of Yemen will receive two international prizes in Kowala Lobur. The two prizes are subsidized by Al-Aghakhan International Foundation for the preservation of Islamic Architecture. The first of which was given to the Al-Amariah School Mosque located in Rada' in Al-Baidha governorate due to its historical significance and successful restoration attempts. The second prize was bestowed upon the City of Shibam, Hadramout for similar restorative procedures undertaken.

ADEN

A Booklet Special for Children Puppets

Aden, Sept. 1 — The Ibb Foundation for Childhood has recently published a booklet focused on children's puppet manufacturing for its juvenile cultural program. The program has been actively subsidized by UNICEF. It is also worth-noting that the 30 page booklet elaborates on the history of making puppets and also on their types, clothes, and how to prepare their movements with respect to theater. Furthermore, the booklet specifies some pages for the actor and puppets' role in educating children with respect to freedom of expression.

AL-MAHRA

Squid catches have declined by 60 percent

Al-Mahra, Sept. 1 — Squid catches have dropped by 60% in Al-Mahra in the current fishing season alone. According to sources, this may be due to the random shoveling works performed by industrial fishing ships in areas specified for traditional fishing. Nashtoon Association for Squid Production has marked that it stands at 340 tons for the period from July,13 to Augus,27- an incredible decline from the intake during last years period. Subsequently, the government has taken action to prevent the exposure of these valuable fishing areas to shoveling with the passing of the 2006 Law No.2.

IBB

Free Medical Camp in Ibb

Ibb, Sept. 1 — It has been learned that a free medical camp will be launched in Abdull-Moghni Hospital in Ibb governorate for a period of two weeks. It will be organized by the Ministry of Health and Population.. The purpose of the camp is to conduct tests and inspection for more than 2000 cases. Furthermore, more than 450 surgeries will be undertaken, free of charge, in the fields of otorhinology, laryngology, obstetrics, gynaetrics etc. It also aims to provide health services in all districts, including undeveloped areas.

Tribal norms protecting women are diminishing

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojali
Dahesh95@yahoo.com

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Academics and human rights activists argue that tribal norms do not protect women from violent attacks by men. However, some tribal norms do try to protect women; the problem is that men do not abide by them either through ignorance or lack of faith.

In northern districts of Yemen, such as Sana'a, Dhamar and Marib Al-Jawf, tribal norms contribute to protecting women from violence. For example, if a man slaps a woman he will be punished by having to bring a lamb to her family and provide her with a dress. The punishment increases with the volume of violence committed. Additionally, according to tribal norms, harming a woman is seen as a cowardly and shameful act. Ali Al-Salami, a tribe sub-leader, stated, "Aggression against women is everywhere, but it differs from one place to another. It is much more in the rural areas due to many factors, such as a lack of education and awareness of the other's rights."

Tribal norms exist to organize community affairs and all community members should abide by them. The tribal sheikhs are responsible for knowing the norms in case they are violated, in which case the sheikhs determine the volume of the violation and the punishment. Ali Naser, a tribe sub-leader stated, "These norms and

others were put in place to organize the life of communities and they are known to all people and in case one of the people violates these norms, he will be punished at the volume of the violation."

Amat Al-Razzaq Jahaff, head of the Women's Development Center for Traditional Heritage mentioned, "Tribal norms do many good things in protecting women in the rural areas. For example, if you beat a woman, you will be fined and all people will blame you. But this doesn't mean that there are no defects in these norms. Some norms look as if they support and defend women, but when you look at these norms thoroughly you find that they disgrace women. For instance, it is shameful to beat a woman even if she slaps you. What is meant by this is that a woman doesn't deserve that a man should beat her."

Many women complained of being beaten by their husbands, fathers, brothers and sometimes sons. Zenah Mahdi, 45, shared, "I suffered a lot from both my husband and elder brother. My husband is illiterate and merciless and my brother is controlled totally by his wife who is a relative of my husband. When I ask my husband to bring me anything or I commit a trivial mistake, he directly comes and beats me without even asking about the reasons. When I go to my brother complaining of my husband, my brother takes it easy and does nothing in order not to hurt the feelings of his wife. He neglects

me for weeks and his wife and children start hurting me and once my husband comes to take me, he doesn't bother himself even to blame my husband and submits me to him like a goat."

Aum Ali Mohsen, 38, explained, "My son is addicted to Qat and he keeps company with bad guys. When he doesn't have money he obliges me to give him money to buy Qat. When I don't have or refuse to give him, he beats me and takes what he wants by force. Once he took me and wanted to cast me into the traditional oven (Tanoor)."

Sometimes tribal norm procedures and interference from outsiders leads to the diminishing of women's rights. Mohammed Rashed, 30, witnessed, "In my village, three known highway men killed one woman and injured two others. According to the tribal rules, the killers aren't to be killed but the punishment is very big; the blood money is doubled and the same for the injuries. Here, everything is doubled because it is a very big shame to attack women. But because the sum is very big and the killers have support by sheikhs and tribesmen, the women and their families have still received nothing."

Tribesman Ahmed Al-Naqeeb, stated, "I often heard my neighbor beat his wife and children and I would go to reconcile them, but really I'm not surprised at what he does and I expected that. What do you expect from a man who deprives his fam-

ily from many essential things and goes to the market to buy Qat? A man who has no relations with God? In my opinion the religious factor plays a role in this issue."

A 42-year-old wife, who asked to be anonymous, mentioned, "My husband almost never prays or fasts. I don't see him doing anything for Allah and I think this is why he always curses at me. He is always angry with me and sometimes beats me in front of my children. In the past I went many times to my brothers and complained to them but with no avail, and now I stopped because I don't want other people to know what's going on in my house. My children sometimes try to beat him but they know that it is forbidden and at the same time don't want the others to know about such things." She continued, "In the end, I resorted to the sheikh, who obliged him to bring three lambs, 20,000 Yemeni riyals and a complete dress for me as a punishment."

One tribal norm states that if a man kills a woman intentionally, he shouldn't be killed in return, while according to Islamic law, he must be killed.

Sheikh Mohammed Zubair, a tribe leader, clarified, "According to the tribal norms, if a man kills a woman, he isn't killed for her because a woman isn't seen as equal to a man in the tribal environment; man is more valued. All people know that it is stipulated in the Holy Qur'an that a man is to be killed if he kills a woman intentionally, but due to igno-

rance, illiteracy and tribal fanaticism people try to ignore this rule."

Khalid Al-Qalisi, 38, a lawyer, explained, "Yemeni law which is derived from Islam stipulates that a man is to be sentenced to death when he kills a woman intentionally, except for his daughter."

The affect and application of tribal norms reduces with the passage of time. This is due in part to the absence of people who are knowledgeable about such norms. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, head of Dar Al-Salam Organization, said, "Unfortunately the application of tribal norms started to reduce with the passage of time and people began neglecting these norms though they serve to a big extent in organizing community affairs despite their minimal negative aspects. In my opinion, the reduction of the application occurs due to the death of the righteous sheikhs and tribal leaders who used to always conciliate between people. Also, modernization has affected the people to the point where they abandon their customs."

Most tribal norms aren't prevalent in the middle and southern districts of Yemen. Sheikh Al-Marwani explained, "These tribal norms have existed for hundreds of years. Yemeni people inherit these norms from generation to generation, but these norms were erased from the southern areas and some of the middle areas because of the British occupation and the spread of education."

An intensive campaign to fight desert locusts

SANA'A, Sept. 1 — Swarms of locusts have now been seen in Tahima and Aden Gulf. An intensive campaign has been launched to contain these swarms as this is an ideal breeding ground and the situation could become dangerous.

"The winter season is the suitable environmental conditions for increasing the flock locusts especially in Tahima and Aden Gulf. We have sent some fighting teams to this area to avoid the locusts arriving in any number", said Abdualgawi Abdualgalial, the chief manager of plant prevention center in the ministry of agriculture.

On Sunday 26 August, U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) offered Yemen materials of a cost estimated at 32,000 USD to control locusts spread in the country as well as it is a support of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP) to control the spread of dangerous desert locusts.

Such support is not enough. "We appreciate the good efforts of the U.S., but the campaign needs more help especially if the flocks start to move to the wintry areas which are the suitable areas for locusts increasing in the winter season such as Tahima and Aden Gulf." Abdualgalial added.

For the moment, the largest swarms of locusts are to be seen in the East of the county. Some 9 locust fighting teams are already in Marib, al-Jawf, and

Shabwa to control the speedily spreading swarms of locusts in these areas. "Perhaps 19 more will eventually be needed to cope with the situation in those areas" Abdualgalial said.

The small number of locusts seen recently in Sana'a and Dhamar and Badr are not dangerous. It is the nature of locusts to fly to different areas, especially during the summer season, however small numbers do not present a danger to agriculture.

"Locusts fly to the middle districts just for few days at a time without causing destruction to these areas. The environmental conditions in some of the middle states are not suitable for the spread of the locust swarms. The locusts increase only in the desert so we send the fighting locusts teams to the desert." Abdualgalial noted.

When locusts were seen in Al-Beidha, Dhamar, and Mahwit on Monday, many people especially the children went out to streets to collect the them. The cost of the locusts reached YR 2000 for one Kg which is now more expensive than the cost of meat. Some people believe that the meat of locusts is a medicine for many diseases, especially diabetes.

Last week the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mansour Al-Hawshabi confirmed that the serious locust blight currently affecting Yemen could spread to neighboring countries such as Oman, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran.

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Hayel Sa'eed Group Ramadan fair

TAIZ, Aug. 31 — The Hayel Sa'eed Group Corporation have launched exhibitions for the Holy Month of Ramadan.. The contributing companies are composed of eleven industrial and trading centers that have undertaken preparations in a plethora of cities, such as, Taiz, Sana'a, Aden, Hodiada, Ibb, and Hadramout. The exhibition will last for 15 days, during which products will be sold at fixed prices. The prices of some foodstuffs will be discounted because of blessed Ramadan, especially wheat, flour and oils. In fact, due to the deals on prices, many shoppers visited the fair instead of the regular markets.



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As Demands remain unmet, retirees threaten to continue protests

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Thousands of military and civil retirees poured into the streets of different southern and eastern governorates on Saturday in angry protests, imploring the government to listen to their demands and not to ignore their problems. The fiercest of them was staged in the city of Mukalla in Hadramout in which bloody clashes took place between policemen and protesters.

The security forces attempted to disperse the crowds by force and in fact arrested many of them. It has been learned that at least two people were killed and tens of protesters, along with policemen were injured in the clashes that drove rioters to damage cars and destroy trade stores.

The clashes broke out at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday following a peaceful demonstration that was organized by the Political and Public Function Coordination

Committee and Military and Civil Retirees Coordination Council in Hadramout, as well as other social forums.

Furthermore, on the same day, Aden city experienced heavy deployment of security personnel in most of the city's intersections after clashes between protesters and policemen broke out in the Sheikh Othman and Khor Maksar neighborhoods. During the clashes, 3 protesters were killed and 400 others injured. Most of those arrested, however, were released on the same day. Also, security forces prevented the crowd from holding a sit-in in Aden and vehemently dispersed those who started to gather with sticks and rubber bullets.

A security source said to the media that the retirees were prevented from staging a sit-in under the subterfuge that they haven't obtained an official permission from the security authorities. Additionally, he accused the protesters of hurling stones at policemen, which forced them to react in kind. However, eyewitnesses denied that protesters hurled stones at policemen.

In Khor Maksar, where the military and civil retirees' societies had been expected to stage a sit-in, military and security troops, along with armored vehicles closed all the entrances leading to the area and put cement barriers in the streets. Such measures even prevented government employees from going to their jobs in the nearby areas.

In Al-Salam Sport Stadium in Tawr Al-Baha, Lahj governorate, a huge rally was held to protest against poor living standards, rampant corruption, abject poverty, unemployment and skyrocketing prices of foodstuffs.

Speeches and poems criticizing poverty, corruption, unemployment and price hikes were given during the rally, which was held in the presence of the Military and Civil Retirees' Society, civil community activists, sheikhs, social personalities and thousands of citizens from nearby areas.

In Al-Mahfad district, Abyan governorate, a large number of army and civil pensioners, along with ordinary citizens, joined a peaceful demonstration. They,

like their fellow counterparts around the country, chanted slogans denouncing corruption and price hikes. Another rally, involving hundreds of locals, was organized by the retirees' society, Idle Youth Society and JMP, in Rasd district.

The society of military, civil retirees and dismissed servants in the areas of Yafe', Labous, Yahr, Al-Had and Al-Muflihi in Lahj governorate held a peaceful sit-in at the local authority's building.

In Al-Dhale' governorate, a massive demonstration was staged in protest against the crackdown on Aden protesters. Citizens confirmed that demonstrators in Al-Dhale' blocked the Sana'a-Aden Highway for more than five hours and categorically denounced the assaults on protesters in other governorates.

The protesters around the country arrived at one powerful and unified consensus: the reinstatement of retirees, who were referred to pensions after 1994, and the resolution of the situations of those who were dismissed from their jobs before and after 1994. Other demands include considering petitions and complaints of retirees whose property was looted by the elite.

Furthermore, the protesters are insisting that the government tackle unemployment among youths, create more job opportunities and help the facilitation of youths into universities, military academies through scholarships. The angry protesters vowed to continue their peaceful struggle until they attain all their legal rights. According to them, this is a vindication for the reservation of national principles, protecting national solidarity and strengthening justice.

JMP denounced all the security and administrative procedures, in addition to the decisions that have been so far taken by the local authorities in Aden and Hadramout. Thus, this is preventing citizens from voicing their demands peacefully as ensured by the constitution. According to the opposition parties, such procedures are flagrant violations of the government's duty to uphold the constitution.

JMP also called for an investigation to question government officials, who are responsible for what happened on

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Yemen: Fears over possibly rising number of child labourers

The number of child labourers in Yemen may be increasing due to the country's deteriorating economic conditions, including price hikes, activists and experts have warned. The future of these children is at stake mainly because they leave school at an early age, they said.

"The situation [in the country] is miserable. Child labour is on the rise due to the deteriorated economic situation of most families," Jamal al-Shami, chairman of Democracy School, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), told IRIN.

Al-Shami said children now believe they have to work because by so doing they contribute to the family income.

Official figures estimate the number of child labourers in Yemen to be over 400,000. In 1999, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that 19.2 percent of children aged 10-14 were working in Yemen.

Child labour has also increased the

school dropout rate. "There are about two million children out of school," al-Shami said, adding that most of them will end up illiterate.

According to Yemeni law, children aged 7-15 are considered juveniles, while internationally a juvenile is up to 18. The government is yet to approve a proposal to make 18 the legal age limit for juveniles.

What is more worrying, according to specialists, are the psychological consequences of the work environment on the child worker. "Violence begets violence. As child workers are subjected to violence - whether at home or work, they will become aggressive towards society," al-Shami said.

Risks

In Yemen, children work as street vendors, in restaurants, bus stations, factories, at construction sites and in vehicle repair workshops. In addition, a large number of children work in the agricultural sector, where they face the



Mosheer Abdu, 16, earns US\$1 per day selling glasses and cups on the streets of Sana'a. Grinding poverty has driven many children to give up their studies to earn money for their families.

risk of being contaminated by pesticides.

Al-Shami said some child workers are exposed to danger at home by their parents, as well as in the street and at work. Children who work as street vendors are often chased away by municipality workers, he said.

Some children carry heavy objects like concrete and foodstuffs, and this exposes them to risk, according to Col Ali Awad Farwa, head of the women and juvenile affairs unit in the Yemeni Ministry of Interior. "If a child carries more than he should, its body and backbone could get damaged."

Child workers Jamal Jamil Abbas, 14, and his brother had to help their father in order for the family to survive. They work at their father's soldering workshop, which was not a safe environment.

Jamal lost one of his eyes while

working in a welding shop. After working in welding for some time, I started to have an allergy. My eyes started hurting. I can see in one eye only now," he said. Jamal hoped to be a doctor or a pilot but his chances of fulfilling his dreams have vanished. "I would like to go to school. I don't want to work. Work is tiring," he said.

Child workers to be counted in 2008 census

Salah al-Ghanamy, financial and administrative manager of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), told IRIN child labour was a big problem requiring serious work to combat it.

He said IPEC, which started working in Yemen in 2000, had been able to establish anti-child labour units in a number of government



A young boy on the streets of Sana'a sells tissues to passing motorists. Yemen has seen a sharp rise in the number of street children over the past five years.

institutions. It had already established two centres for the rehabilitation of child workers in Sana'a and the southern city of Seyyoun.

He said IPEC had signed an agreement with the central statistics bureau, a government body, to count the number of child workers in the 2008 population census. According to him, child workers centre on Sana'a Governorate, Taiz, Hajjah, Hadhramaut and Aden. Hundreds of children are also trafficked to Saudi Arabia as cheap labour, experts say.

Adel Abdulla al-Rimi, 14, is a bus conductor in Sana'a. He was seriously injured after getting involved in a fight whilst at work. The boy was also a victim of trafficking when he was nine.

"I went with a dealer to Saudi Arabia to work as a beggar. On the way we disagreed and he left me in

Saada [northern Yemen]. I had to come all the way back to Sana'a alone," he said.

In a session on child labour held early this month, Yemen's children's parliament said child labour was a problem needing to be solved. Members recommended the government pass laws to punish families that push their children to work; set up centres throughout the country to rehabilitate child workers; and breathe life into all the laws related to child labour.

Half of Yemen's 21 million inhabitants are children, while 43 percent of the population live below the US\$2 per day poverty line, according to the UN Development Programme's 2005 Human Development Report.

Source: IRIN



Young boys in the streets of Sana'a sell fruit to help support their families.

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The disabled are qualified to work

In society, there are many stories about successful handicapped men and women. Subsequently, many of whom have indeed graduated from the university and have become active members in their society. Some examples are cited below.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafjfr@yahoo.com

Fawzia Rasam and Rasmia Rasam are two blind sisters. In spite of the fact that they were both born with vision, Fawzia became blind when she was fourteen years old, while Rasmia followed when she was ten years of age. "I was shocked when I realized that I will never see again. Thus, because of this, I refused to go to school for one whole year. However, with strong faith and the overwhelming support of my mother, I was able to continue studying in Al-KHansa school with my sister as we

learned Brail language for the blind together."

After losing her sight gradually, the situation presented itself in a different way for Rasmia. "Now I see only light and the shadows, while my sister is completely blind and can only see light", Rasmia explained.

With their university being far from home, the two sisters faced some herculean difficulties. For example, it was difficult for their widowed mother to take and bring them to school, thus many times they had to walk. Furthermore, the most difficult thing they tried to overcome was recording and following their professors' lectures. She even brought in a special

recording device so that she could maintain her focus in class. "Many times, my teachers were even willing to fix my small tape recorder so that I wouldn't miss a thing", Fawzia explained. Thus, despite the unbelievable problems the sisters faced, cooperation from both teachers and fellow classmates, allowed them to realize their goals.

Since they knew the importance of learning the English language, Fawzia and Rasmia decided to study English to achieve two aims. Firstly, to obtain better job and secondly to improve their family's living standards. Fawzia declared triumphantly that "we now earn a substantial income and we give it to my mother as a simple gift". Additionally, Rasmia noted that she still remembers when she became blind. She vividly described how she was so disappointed about their future and how they could possibly be able to live normally because of this abnormality. However, now the two sisters have developed a strong mentality of self reliance and confidence.

Even after graduating college, their dreams have not subsided in any way shape or form. They are planning to continue their studies and improve their English language skills, since it has always been one of their ambitions. "I presented my application to the office of admissions to begin a masters degree, however I was rejected on the basis that this type of study was much too difficult for someone with my condition. In spite of this setback, I will never give up this dream, never", Fawzia expressed.

For now they have been English teachers in Al-Saeed public school for non-blind students for four years. For them, this represents the first time that they have taught in a public school. However, at first, the administration of the school claimed there are inherent difficulties for blinds to interact with normal students in addition to their ability to facilitate movement within a classroom of a least 50 students.

"I will never forget the first day that I entered the classroom. The majority of the students were scared to death and it seemed as if they were trying to escape from a monster. They couldn't imagine a blind teacher will teach them. I didn't blame them any way", Fawzia explained.

In order to check their work, the administration put them under intense scrutiny for three days. The result was great for the school administration when they saw the strong interaction with these two blind teachers. "Always we tried to attract the students while using different tools and teaching methods. In fact, I prefer to bring my own, self-prepared cassettes in an effort to encourage the students to sing and learn", Fawzia explained.

When a supervisor from the Ministry of Education came to evaluate the teaching process of certain schools, he was enthralled as to what he saw in Sa'ad school with respect to these two teachers. "One day I welcomed a supervisor that came without any warning. That day's lesson happened to be about shopping. I brought foods, vegetables, and juices to show students how to go shopping and how to easily memorize new words. The students and I were actually ready to perform skits, when the supervisor attended the class. He was extremely interested in the lesson preparation, along with student interaction", Fawzia said.

The only question that the supervi-



Fawzia is the blind teacher who represents the quintessential example of a teacher that can communicate effectively with her non-blind students.



When the facilities are available, teaching methods will be easier for the blind students.



A flower gives a ray of hope to those that are blind.



sor asked Fawzia was "are you sure you are blind? You are better than normal teachers."

Furthermore, people who walk near Fawzia's and Rasmia's classes realize the harmony the exists between the blind teacher and her non-blind students. "In fact, many times, students that I don't teach ask for the permission to attend my class", Fawzia said.

Every year, the administration of schools organizes a celebration for Teacher Day in which the Ministry of Education reward the best teachers in public schools. On two of these occasions Fawzia and Rasmia were rewarded for being the best in that particular school. "Now my mother is too proud of us", Fawzia gleefully exclaimed.

Tasier Mater, a blind student in the Arabic Department's faculty of education had also been born blind. The first time she came to know about her blindness was when she was seven years old. "I was listening to children talking about colors and views that I couldn't comprehend. However, my family told me about the blindness as being sent from Allah and that I will

be rewarded", Tasier expressed.

Tasier wants to convey a message to the community about blindness yeams to increase public awareness. "I plan to be news broadcaster at Sana'a radio but some people advise me not to do it because I might experience bad treatment from other workers. I have long dreamed to undertake campaigns related to blind people and show how they add a certain illuminating factor to their communities", Tasier stated.

"Samah Al-Fagieh, is a graduate blind girl, who graduated from Sana'a University last year from the Faculty of Art and Islamic Studies section.

"I still remember how some teachers used to insult and ridicule me because of my blindness. One day a teacher gave me low marks, even though I had scored the best in the entire class. When I asked him why he did so, he simply said "thank Allah that you passed the exam, as you are simply a blind girl", she said.

The conditions that exists for most blind women can be characterized as low and poor. One of the Aman association's aims is to look for blind women in their area and encourage them to join. Some times parents do not allow their daughters' to join for fear that they could be used as beggars and a mechanism for exploitation. However, there are many parents who bring their daughters to the association, especially after seeing how they are treated.

"There is a father who has six children who are blinds; three boys and three girls. When he knew about the association, he emigrated from his village to live in the city. He is happy to see his daughter studying and improving her skills in different fields." Ghalia Al-Jahdri, the social researcher for Al-Aman association stated.

"There are about 8 blind girls who graduated from university, 16 students are still studying now in the universi-

ty, and 18 girls will register next year", Al-Jahdri noted.

Ali Al-Wajeh is the chief of the Physical Handicapped Association, but furthermore he is a quintessential example of a man who became handicapped after he was 18 years old as a result of an accident where he lost his legs.

But Ali didn't only lose his legs, he lost his job also as a secretary. "After the accident, I hated to meet people or even go out. It was a shock for me to be disabled and I thus went to Britain for a year's treatment", Ali said.

After Ali returned to Yemen from his treatment in Britain, it was as if he went through his own personal renaissance, obtaining a new zest for life. He, thus, began to undertake improvements in the English Language, computer science, and other courses for the disabled. He would later go on to work in the local council office.

Recently Ali has received a two month scholarship to study in Japan, where he will study about how to qualify himself as a leader. "I plan when I come back to teach the disabled in my association", Ali stated.

Ali got married to a normal girl who fought her family and society tooth and nail to marry a physically disabled person. "I forgot the idea of marriage after the accident believing that no one would ever accept me. However, I fell in love with a co-worker and she accepted to marry me", Ali said.

Amel Haza'a is 25 years old, and also physical disabled. She became disabled when she was six months as a result of a fever. But, she continued to make strides an graduated from school with a degree in administration sciences from the National Institute. "I had always dreamt of studying political science at Sana'a university and to become an ambassador, but I couldn't because the facilities at the university were not suitable for the type of

and are willing to serve their society



accessibility that I had required.

After graduation, she started to look for a job. Fortunately she got an official degree to work in a governmental office. However, she was rejected, even though she was qualified to get such a position.

After the onslaught of seemingly bad news, Amel now works at the Water and Sanitation Corporation. "It is a very good place for me. It's near

to my house, and I am treated like a regular person", she said.

The disabled and the private sector
Even though there are many qualified disabled individuals, it is unfortunately rare for them to obtain positions in the private sector. "Employment for the disabled has for a long time been extremely conditioned and regulated, however we are encouraging such



Ramzia uses the brail machine to prepare and type the lessons that she uses for her lessons

companies to employ them with the nominations of qualified people", Antasar Al- Jofi, a member of employing committee for the National Disabled Union said.

Mobile Telecommunication Network (MTN) is a private company which implemented to employ qualified disabled individuals. "We are going to employ three physically handicapped individuals at our company as we believe in the important role they play in society", Salwa Al-Fathli, a representative of employees affairs at MTN explained.

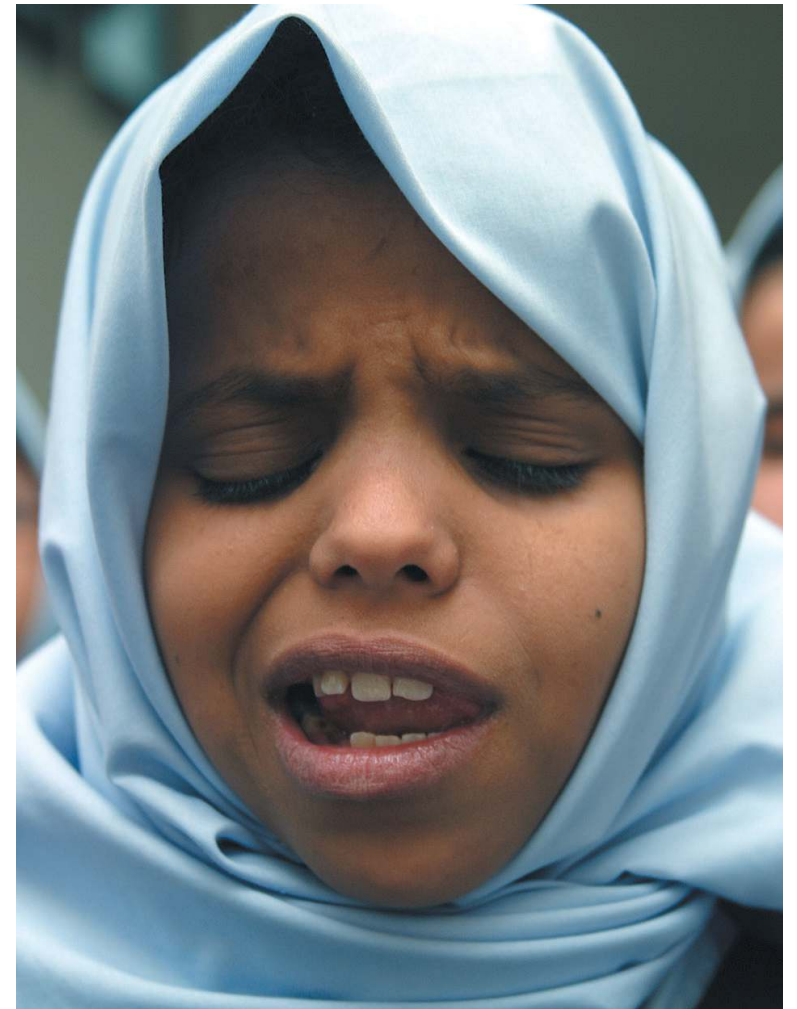
However, some private companies continue to regulate the employment of the disabled. " We actually employ the physically disabled according to the demands of the labor market and according to bonafide occupational qualifications", Al-Fathli noted.

Yemeni law and the disabled
The Yemeni law allocates 5 percent of the total gross employment opportunities, in both public and mixed sectors, for the disabled who are qualified in different fields irrespective of their

capabilities.

According to a report released by the Bureau of Democracy and Human Rights and Labor on March 8, 2006, "several Yemeni laws mandate the rights and care of the disabled." A law mandates the acceptance of individuals with disabilities in universities, exempts them from paying tuition, and requires that schools be made more accessible to them. However, no national law mandates the accessibility of buildings for persons with disabilities.

The government's Social Fund for Development and Fund for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, administered by the MLSA, provided basic services and funded over 60 NGOs to assist persons with disabilities. " There are approximately 90 different Yemeni private foundations that provide some sort of assistance to the disabled. Furthermore, most of them are currently registered in the National Disabled Union. The majority of them specialize in rehabilitation for the physically handicapped who consider the large number in disabled



A blind student sings the national anthem with a belief she will be an active member in the future.

in Yemen", Hassan Ismail, the deputy of the National Disables Union, mentioned.

In a recent study, purported by The Yemeni Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood, indicated that the registered number of Yemeni disabled is currently at 37,9924.

The study depended on recent data by the 2004 Yemeni census, which indicated that disability is more preva-

lent among males than females. It further mentioned that about 56.6 percent of the disabled are males, while 43.4 percent of them are females.

According to the study, Taiz governorate has the highest rate of the disabled, numbering 52, 016, while Hodeidah comes in second with 48,398. Al-Mahra ,Marab, and Shabw are the lowest governorates in terms of disable cases.



The integration of blind individuals is a key goal of AlAman Association.

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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Traffic

In 1996, Yemen Times had an interview with the Director General of the Traffic Authority in the capital Sana'a. Colonel Yahya Zaher, the Director General then, explained the authority's difficult job especially regarding mini buses known as "Dababs", and weak infrastructure.

Last week more than a decade since the 1996 interview, Yemen Times had another interview with the Director General of Traffic Authority. This time it is colonel Yahya Shubail, who complained of minibuses and the weak infrastructure.

In fact, in the current interview, the traffic authority is suffering from many more difficulties than it used to in the past. However, the idea is that the authority knew what was going wrong, knew what must be done 11 years ago, but still nothing happened.

In the 1996 interview colonel Zaher talked about a new project to create multi-storey parking to accommodate the increasing number of cars. Eleven years after, that project is still in paper, and it is not the fault of the traffic administration. It seems their projects are not in the state's priority list, which is a big mistake.

In the current interview, the director general talks about a 400 million dollars project that would solve all the problems of traffic in Sana'a, yet this project has not secured its funding until now. Apparently Minister of Interior is working to get the project started from the national budget and donor contribution.

The number of field traffic wardens in 1996 was 1019, today although the number of vehicles has tripled; the number of traffic wardens working in the field is less than 1500. They don't have health insurance, they are underpaid, and the number of new enrollers is diminishing by the day.

Traffic is a concern of everyone who lives or wishes to stay in Sana'a, even if for a short duration. A better traffic system would encourage investment, would increase productivity, and would decrease expenditure on health care especially on diseases and complications caused by pollution or accidents.

A better traffic system would ensure that all are equal in front of the law, whether it is an army vehicle or that of a VIP. I know of a friend whose family prevented her from driving a car because they feared what might happen to her on the road, and they were talking from first hand experience.

"Everybody blames the traffic authority for what is going on in the streets, they don't remember that we are not the only people responsible: There are the reckless drivers, and irresponsible pedestrians. There are the road-unworthy car owners. There is the Public Works Ministry responsible for road maintenance and traffic lights and signs. There is the Ministry of Defence responsible for distributing army cars and careless officers. And there is the Customs Authority that allows the entry of road unworthy vehicles into the country," complained Colonel Shubail.

I agree with him, instead of pointing fingers, it is time we become responsible for our acts and help make the traffic authority's job easier and our city better.

*Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief*

Arab domains of Yemen's Reunification

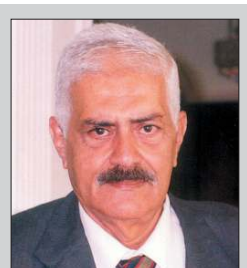
By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

It has been 17 years now since Yemen's National Unity was established. Establishment of this unity left behind a widely-spread controversy between its proponents and opponents, the latter of who cast doubt on survival of this unity, specifically after the 1994 Civil War, which broke out when the unity was four years old. Every side reads the unity and interprets its content according to his own thoughts and the unity's harmony with his own interests and goals.

The real-life situation tells that the unity has achieved a lengthily awaited dream, on the one hand, and constituted an approach for restoring confidence to the Arab citizen, on the other. It proves that if there is a will, dreams and ambitions are easily reachable even amid regional and international fragmentations and conflicts.

The national unity was initiated in 1972, but it remained merely a dream, which had been controlled by the Cold War between the two poles (the Soviet Union and its Socialist Army, one the one hand, and the United States of America and its Western Army, on the other). The idea of establishing Yemen's unity was enhanced after the 1979 War between the two parts of Yemen and the consecutive assassinations of a president from South Yemen and two presidents from North Yemen.

The joint institutions and companies began forming union committees and preparing new systems, which culminated with drafting the Constitution of Unified Yemen. The bloody events of January 13, 1986 forced the then Arab regimes to review the unity or fragmentation of Yemen, based on the fact that the events had left behind tragic conse-



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

quences impacting emotions and feelings of Arabs.

We can not claim that the Arab idea was backing the National Unity after the 1994 Civil War. But will of the people, who belong to different social classes and political organizations, stood by the legitimacy troops to ensure survival of the great achievement (the unity) during the worst times of Arabs.

We and others may have numerous remarks about what is required from the regime after amending the constitution and conducting presidential and local council elections for more than once since the unity was established. Also, we shouldn't forget the successes reached at London Conference, as well as the positive results the Sana'a Investment Conference came up with. But, the National Unity demands the ruling General People Congress to review a variety of issues and suggest workable solutions to them in the light what is contained in the President's platform, which has won a national consensus.

For their part, Yemen's opposition parties are needed to exert pressure on President Saleh and his ruling party to interpret speeches into actions because we realize that gradual reform amid the current democratic practices and pluralism is the only practical approach. Gradual reform is the most useful move for

Yemen and its economic, social and political conditions, as I believe that sudden changes may cause fierce reactions to happen, democracy to disappear and law to be breached.

This is why I felt compelled to say that Yemen is in an urgent need to encourage its people, belonging to different tribes and political organizations, to come together and behave in favor of their society. In addition, President Saleh's platform needs to be implemented. Otherwise, the ruling party will find itself experiencing a situation similar to what happened in the most recent Palestinian parliamentary elections when the majority of Palestinians voted for Hamas. They weren't fund of Hamas Movement. They were enraged by violations and rampant corruption observed under Fatah's regime, however.

Yemen's coming parliamentary and local council elections require the ruling party to work on planning good solutions to the rampant corruption and price hikes, as well as to create more job opportunities and enhance security and equality. Otherwise, results of the coming elections may reverse expectations.

These are the internal and external domains in the national unity's history that needs us to conduct more studies and analyses, and parties and civil community organizations to suggest applicable alternatives to the current situations. To maintain Yemen's stability and smooth prosperity at the time of regional and international crises, the state mustn't allow political conflicts and sectarian seditions to erupt.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

SILVER LINING
Repressive laws never produce social peace

Instead of taking actions towards boosting freedom of expression and gearing up the country for further democratization, the Yemeni political regime is inventing and initiating new tricks that bring about further restrictions to freedom of expression and press. The people in Yemen and the donors are awaiting the new amended press and publications after two years of debates among the journalistic and political community over the draft law drafted by the government. Yemen government committed itself that the amended draft press law will abolish the jail sentence and broaden the scope of freedom of journalists. It also said it would allow private ownership of broadcast media. I wonder how this will take place while new repressive laws are under way.

The government is supposed to exercise double efforts to find a way out of the economic impasse we are going through and think of solutions for the problems the country is facing either in the southern governorates or in Sa'ada where the truce with the rebels is reaching a deadlock. However, we are shocked to find it is busy with cooking a draft law meant to put more restrictions and taboos on journalists, politicians and the public at large.

Recently, the government has secretly endorsed a new draft law for the so-called "National Unity Protection" (NUP). This draft law has been tailored with the aim of protecting national unity, social peace, republican system, national fixed norms, democratic system, the person of the president...etc. Any one who abuses such open-ended and loose terms is to be punished to 2-15 years in jail. But, the sentence can reach death penalty if the defendant according to the text of the draft law has caused the death of any person. In other words, if a journalist, for instance, reports about any issue that might lead to protest wherein riot police kill a protestor, then the journalist receives death penalty. According to the draft law, if you draw a caricature for the president and cynically criticize him, you are bound to serve two years in jail. Wow!

The draft law is really taking us back to the totalitarian period prior unification in 1990 or even worse. It is catastrophic as the journalists, politicians and other democratic activists become under attack. The kidnap and brutal attack of the journalist Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani last Monday is a genuine demonstration of how these people intent to deal with their opponents. The man was harshly beaten up and the security apparatus response was that the man fabricated the story and beat himself in order to abuse the reputation of the security. This is frightening. In addition, this is the democracy model Yemen's regime would like to export to the region.

All and all, such loose terms of the NUP draft law the regime considers taboos can be well protected by good governance rather than by totalitarian laws that drive us back into chaos. Social peace will not be attained unless there is equal distribution of wealth, respect for law and order; it is more freedom and more democracy that ensure stability and security of the nation against any split and turmoil rather than such repressive laws. Hey guys, it is dictatorship and totalitarianism that have brought about the destruction and fall of a number of countries.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.

Yemen's political parties: Mass graves

By: Hamid Al-Abeedi

All the political parties and organizations existing in Yemen have disappointed the public who are inspiring for a prosperous future and a better life, which they have been waiting for as if they are space ships to take them away and rescue them from the bad situation. The sufferers are awaiting these ships to rescue them from swamps, cottages and boxes of the ugly times and take them to the divinely places in a way similar to what parties and organizations did in other democratic countries.

Regrettably, it has been nearly 15 years since political parties were established in Yemen. The one who closely observes performance of these parties and what they did for the sake of people and democracy is bound to find that they evidently deteriorated and progressed backward. Moreover, these parties and organizations turned into mass graves for the burial of man. As a result, man has become an ineffective element in the construction and development of this life. These graves prevented man from doing the real job required from him and made him an extra burden on the society. They made man without

any value or weight and returned him to the same place where he started fleeing and at the same time asking for relief.

All these parties raised the same slogan despite their different names and trends. They have taken their people and supporters into a deadlock and appeared disabled before them asking themselves what they can do and how they can behave. The state of these parties has become similar to that of a fortune teller who brought genies together and then felt unable to distribute their tasks or disperse them from around him.

The main reason is that these parties - or the so-called mass graves - lead their people by sentiment in the past while their current problem is that they are insisting on leading their public through the same misleading sentiment they have been used to. This sentiment lacks science, reason, logic, pre-text, evidence and serious work. It also has nothing of the contemporary means and mechanism that shows respect for humanity of man and help him grow in a better way to be an effective pioneer in this life.

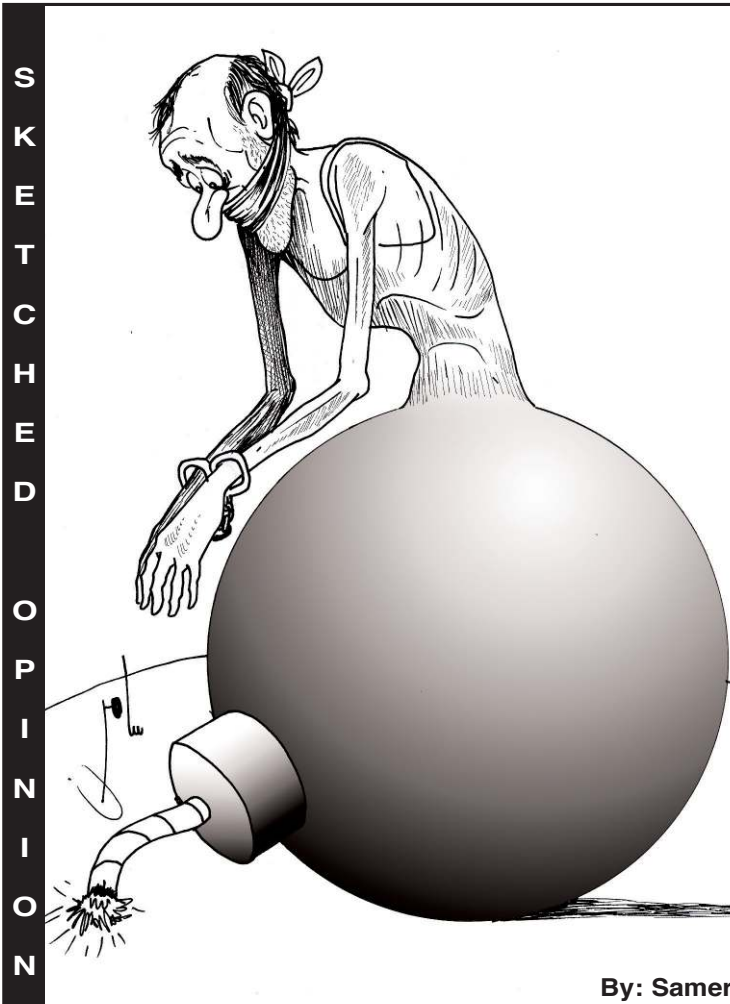
The leadership, which is based on sentiment, is short-lived. Its means and mechanisms are sterile and ineffective, and therefore call

for backwardness, injustice, corruption, dictatorship, chaos and randomness more than they did for the sake of development, justice, reform, law and order, and liberty.

From this point, I invite supporters of all the Yemeni political parties and organizations to avoid being led by sentiment, fanaticism, misleading addresses or false promises. They have to care for being led by the serious action, which is implemented in conformity with the declared statements and effective mechanisms.

The Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him) did not feel convinced by the words given by his Creator as an alternative to action. Instead he said: 'My God, please show me how You recreate the dead.' He freely asked his Creator this question without any sense of fear or anxiety despite the fact that he was standing before Lord of Mankind. So, did these parties endow their supporters with serious works in order to help them overcome their poor situation and get rid of their constant sufferings? In event this question is correctly answered, it will be easy for the nation and its people to progress toward tangible development and continued prosperity.

Source: Al-Wasat Weekly.



By: Samer

Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, August 30

Main Headlines

- President Saleh to conduct visits to other Muslim and non-Muslim countries to enhance cooperation
- Republican Decree appoints new governors and deputies in several provinces
- Yemen's School Football Team defeats Iraqi counterpart in final, clinches championship title
- Prime Minister: Government serious to implement arms bearing ban
- Yemen to import wheat from U.S. to meet growing demand in local markets
- Yemen stands second after U.S. in armed people scores, survey reveals

Yemen stood second after the United States in the number of guns per 100 people, the newspaper quoted a report of Small Arms Survey 2007 published last Tuesday by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva as saying. The report said that every 100 people in US have 90 guns to be the most heavily armed society in the world. In Yemen, every 100 people possess 61 guns, it said.

According to the report, US and Yemen were followed by Finland with 56, Switzerland with 46, Iraq with 39 and Serbia with 38, it said. U.S. citizens own 270 million of the world's 875 million known firearms (and) about 4.5 million of the 8 million new guns manufactured worldwide each year are purchased in the United States.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, August 30

Main Headlines

- Sana'a JMP Leadership: Price hikes, corruption and oppression are the biggest threats to unity
- Report gives political participation in Yemen poor assessment
- Wheat and flour prices continue skyrocketing despite Economic Cooperation's intervention
- Islah Party's parliamentary caucus condemns MP's interception at a security checkpoint
- Joint Meeting Parties refuse to accept handover of power, insist on early elections
- Oxy oil company workers strike from work over dismissal of colleagues
- Mr. President doesn't lead a life similar to ours

The journalist Jamal Anam wrote in a last page opinion article that "Poverty is global, corruption is global, price hikes is global and telling lies is global. People, you have to believe in what Mr. President says like you did before. The problem is that you people are always in hurry and that your patience or tolerance is not global.

All the peoples of developed and underdeveloped countries sometimes suffer change of situations that may have negative impacts on their living standards. But, peoples of other countries don't feel obliged to take to streets of cities to protest any price doses, as their governments immediately deal with any issues of this kind as soon as they emerge and

give no chance for citizen's tension to grow sharper, he said.

Much of the issues witnessed in Yemen are most of the time experienced in other countries. New York suffers a water shortage and Tokyo experiences power blackouts for hours, and the latter is expected to ask Yemen to provide it with candles, as well as the nuclear experience of its Electricity Minister. Unlike Yemen, the other states never pretend to say that any problems experienced in their territories are global. So, we want to know why our government behaves this way.



Al-Wasat Independent Political Weekly
Wednesday, August 29

Main Headlines

- Minister of Local Administration: Plundered lands will be returned to their owners, influential persons will be interrogated over their behavior
- Opposition leaders expressed dissatisfaction with the recently-formed presidential committee to resolve citizens' issues
- Head of Pensioners Coordination Council set conditions for dialoguing with authorities
- U.S. Embassy in Sana'a instructs mission members to maintain a high level of vigilance due to effective presence of Al-Qaeda in Yemen
- Once again, released journalist pays the price of press freedom
- Yemeni citizens detained in Guantanamo are innocent while their government demonstrate no serious effort to release them

- Opposition continues protesting ruling party's policies
- Citizens damage and loot Dhafar antiquities while authorities show no reaction
- Ministries of agriculture and fisheries wasted billions of dollars, says report

The weekly newspaper reported in a front page story that a recent Parliamentary report evaluated the 2005 performance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Fisheries Ministry. The report refers to "very weak" performance at both ministries.

The Ministry of Fisheries represents a key source of Yemen's general budget, but with weak performance and corruption in both this ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture, a remarkable decrease of revenues was recorded in 2005. Corruption in these two ministries wasted of millions of dollars that greatly affected the performance of the state's general budget.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, August 28

Main Headlines

- Unidentified men kidnap released Al-Khaiwani from the Capital City
- Press freedom activist: Yemeni state is required to stop monopoly of visual and auditory media
- Suspension of MP from work is an acceptable behavior, says JMP leader
- Joint Meeting Parties condemn arbitrary malpractices against Al-

- Opposition parties hold huge sit-in in Sana'a in protest against government policies
- Released journalist Al-Khaiwani narrates his ordeal at a Yemeni Journalists Syndicate conference
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate blame authorities for being lenient toward malpractices targeting pressmen
- U.S. Embassy warns mission staff of Al-Qaeda threats

The weekly newspaper reported in a front page story that the U.S. Embassy in Yemen told its employees to avoid restaurants, shopping areas, hotels and tourist attractions in the capital, Sanaa, because of an active al-Qaeda presence.

Westerners may be targeted in Yemen and U.S. citizens in the country are urged to exercise caution and avoid crowds and demonstrations, according to a notice on the mission's Web site.

The embassy didn't say whether a specific threat prompted the warning. Calls to the embassy weren't answered. The recent U.S. Embassy warden message cautioning Americans to avoid all Sana'a restaurants, hotels, and tourist attractions was quoted by this paper, as well as other official and independent newspapers.



Al-Balagh Comprehensive Political Weekly,
Tuesday, August 28

Main Headlines

- Head of Yemeni Socialist Party's Parliamentary bloc criticizes

- National Unity Protection Law
- Activists lash out at government over awarding cars to corrupt officials
- President Saleh to opposition leaders: Those in glass houses should not throw stones at others
- Parliamentary report attributes waste of billions of Riyals to random monetary policies
- U.S. report accuses Yemen of exercising woman trafficking for sexual exploitation
- Prime Minister: Cancer is a threat to everyone, joint efforts are needed to eradicate the disease
- Court finds citizens guilty of drug trafficking while authorities allege that such drugs are used for medical purposes

A group of youths, who called themselves "Jobless Youths Society", in al-Dale' province organized a protest on Monday against unemployment and asking for free education, scholarships, better health services and decent living standards, the independent weekly reported. The protesters shouted "with soul and blood we sacrifice the south" and condemned policies of "the ruling party, president and prime minister".

Like the Pensioned Coordination Council, newly formed in southern Yemen to defend rights of pensioners of military and civil service, the head of the Jobless Youths Society" Ali Abdul-Rab called all jobless youths in the country to form a coordination council including all societies of jobless youths across the country, according to the weekly.

It quoted Fadhil Al-Aqla, a member of the Preparatory Committee for the Jobless Youths Society, as saying that Al-Dale' which hosted the peaceful protests of pensioners and this protest of jobless youths will try to deliver the voices to all provinces of the country.

Terrorists new attack on communal harmony in India

By: Nanveer Jafri
Columnist, member of Haryana Sahitya Academy

On the evening of last August 25, the terrorists again succeeded in spreading terror in the ancient & historical city of South India, Hyderabad, the capital of a prosperous state Andhra Pradesh. 45 innocent persons were killed because of the two bomb blasts there. About 50 persons were badly injured in this incident. It seems that these blasts were planned at the time of completion of 100 days of the bomb blast done on May 18, on Mecca Mosque of Hyderabad. The terrorists had well planned these blasts where 11 persons had lost their lives. On August 25, an incident took place at a place named Lumbini Park where some tourists & local citizens were enjoying a Laser Show. During the show the incident took place in that hall. 10 persons were killed in this fresh blast. At the same time another incident happened when a blast took place at famous Gokul Chat Bhandar of Hyderabad. Thirty persons lost their lives on the spot in this blast. At the same moment, besides these two bomb blasts, the security persons searched explosives from other sixteen places in the city of Hyderabad, which were planned to be exploded & could have caused even more destruction.

This is the second big blow by the terrorists in Hyderabad, the city which is an example of communal harmony. Since 1998, the terrorist activities are going on in South India but these continuous incidents show now terrorists are in search of striking at the pleasant atmosphere of communal harmony prevalent in South India. This incident has once again compelled all the Indians & the lovers of humanity & the people of Hyderabad & South India to think that for how long these handful of terrorist will go on with their wicked activities & thus go on killing the innocent people? These hired terrorists are unable to understand that these types of mischievous actions wouldn't be able to

spoil the pleasant communal atmosphere of India, a vast country. Specially a city as Hyderabad which is known as example of communal harmony, can't allow fulfilling the nefarious designs of the terrorists.

Before that in the blast that took place on May 18, in Mecca Mosque of Hyderabad, the persons who were killed there were Namazies i.e. the persons who had gathered there to pay Friday prayer in Mecca Mosque. By this blast the terrorists wanted to draw attention of the Muslims of India to another side. They tried to arouse sorrow & anger among the Muslims of India so that they could play a negative role to destroy the communal harmony in India. But the people of Hyderabad specially the Muslims lost no time to understand the wicked motives of the terrorists that it was the work of professional terrorists who aim at either on Sankatmochan Temple or Akshardham Temple. The peace loving people of Hyderabad immediately understand that the powers who had worked to destroy the piety of the graveyard of Malegaon have also tried to unholy the Mecca Mosque.

Now these terrorists have very well understood in their minds that all their efforts to spoil the communal harmony have failed because of the communal unity of the country so now instead of aiming at the religious places & blasting at the religious places they may have prepared a policy of doing blasts at the crowded places. The blasts at the two places in Hyderabad have caused the death of both the communities, the Hindus & the Muslims. That also included the women & the children.

On reacting upon this incident, the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil has expressed that these blasts have been done to disturb the peace of the city. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also called this incident a terrorist incident & appealed to the common people of the state to maintain peace in the state. The state is on Red Alert after this incident. After this incident, there arises a question, why did the terrorist selected again this city of Hyderabad for their activity? Is there a

wicked try to disturb the communal harmony of the city or any other conspiracy behind it? Some experts are of the view that spoiling the pleasant atmosphere of communal harmony is a motive of the terrorists & there is another deep conspiracy behind it. With such type of fearful atmosphere the anti-India powers want to fill the minds of foreign investors with fear, who are planning to invest their capital in the South India. It is well known that at present the centres of revolution of information & technology in South India are the twin cities of Hyderabad & Bangalore. At these two places, the local & foreign investors are investing huge amounts in Information & Technology industries. By these blasts, the terrorists want to frighten the investors who are searching the possibilities of successful trade in South India.

Some people are of the views that some Satanic powers in the name of Islam who indulge in terrorist activities want that there should be open enmity between the Hindus & the Muslims. Just as some of the persons having the Hinduism thoughts nurture these thoughts. But the peace loving Indian people have understood the desires of the powers who want to spread communal hatred. Most of the people of India don't want to go with the religious feelings of hatred but they want to adopt the path of peace. Many incidents of innocent killings by the terrorists have happened in this country. These incidents took place in the temples in the Mosques, in Markets, in parks & at other public places. But the communal harmony in this country remained unaffected. Now these terrorists want to centralize their activities on the Southern India so that economy of India & the investment of capital in India can be affected.

All of Indians have a duty to futile the efforts of the terrorists. Our unity strikes the will of the terrorists who kill many innocent persons by their bomb blasts. We need to face the blows of the terrorists by our unity & tolerance so that they are never successful.

Turkey's transformation

By: Soli Ozel

Abdullah Gül's election as Turkey's 11th president marks a watershed in the country's history.

In July, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) – religiously conservative but economically liberal – won a landslide in parliamentary elections called after the military balked at seeing Gül become president. That victory, combined with Gül's election, confirm the AKP's emergence as a party of realignment, and that, despite an upsurge of xenophobic nationalism, Turks wanted to integrate with the European Union.

Last April, Gül's candidacy brought a threat of a coup from the military, precipitating the recent elections. Thus, the electorate also made it clear that it no longer wanted the military involved in domestic politics, rejecting the generals' warnings that the AKP would lead the country into the darkness of theocratic rule.

The fierce debate concerning the presidency underscored the symbolic significance of the post in Turkey's domestic balance of power. The headscarf that Gül's wife wears for religious reasons was seen as an assault on Turkey's sacrosanct principle of secularism. Indeed, outgoing President Ahmet Necdet Sezer refused to invite the wives of AKP deputies who covered their hair to state dinners and Republic Day receptions.

The president obviously represents the state, but he is not a mere figurehead. After all, he sits in Ataturk's chair. He has wide-ranging powers, including the authority to make senior government appointments. He appoints judges to high courts and members to the Higher Educational Council (YOK). He selects the presidents of state universities from a list submitted by the YOK. In times of peace, he is the commander-in-chief of the armed

forces.

This is why the crisis over the presidential election was actually a crisis of the constitutional order installed by the military when it ruled from 1980-1983. That constitution – unlike Ataturk's – was written by and for the military on the assumption that the Cold War would never end, and that the president would always be either a military person or someone close to the military.

But the Cold War is long over, and a lot has since changed in Turkey. An IMF-supported program in 2001 unleashed rapid economic growth, based on Turkey's gradual but definitive transformation into a market economy. At the same time, Turkey moved decisively onto the path of political and administrative reform in order to start EU accession negotiations.

Moreover, Turkey's economic and social transformation brought forth a new elite. The AKP came to represent this new elite and its quest for political power.

Many foreign commentators described the presidential and parliamentary elections as a contest between Turkey's secular past and a putative Islamist future. However, the contest is more accurately seen as one between an open and an introverted Turkey; between civilian, democratic rule and military tutelage; and between a globalizing and a protectionist economy. The AKP's support came from both the winners and losers of globalization, from conservative middle Anatolia and cosmopolitan Istanbul, from the nationalist Black Sea region and the predominantly Kurdish Southeast.

Following the AKP's parliamentary election victory in July, and now with the election of Gül, many observers predicted military intervention. Although there is no doubt that the military, as the bastion of the secular establishment, does not like these results, a coup is virtually out of the question.

One reason is that relations between

the military and the Islamist movement are more complicated than they appear. Back in 1997, when the military pushed the then Islamist-led government of Necmettin Erbakan out of power, the Islamist movement fractured. The younger, more modern, and outward-looking elements broke away from the traditional, anti-western, anti-Semitic older generation. This year's crisis led Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister, to complete the transformation of the AKP away from doctrinaire Islamism.

Following the AKP's victory in July, Erdogan initially sought to avoid antagonizing the military by not renewing Gül's presidential candidacy. Yet Gül insisted, and the AKP united behind him.

As a result, Turkey is entering uncharted waters. Gül will be an engaged president. As Turkey faces many regional challenges, his experience as foreign minister ought to serve him well. But an engaged and active president may cause tension with the prime minister who, in the Turkish system, is the real chief executive.

Gül's ascent to the presidency should consolidate the transformation of Turkish politics. Turkey has integrated its Islamist movement into the political mainstream. Representatives of an economically dynamic and socially conservative heartland are moving Turkey toward reform. The republican project of modernization will continue, with a wider mobilization of society.

Thus, Turkey will continue its unprecedented amalgam of Islam, capitalism, and secular liberal democracy. As unlikely as it may seem in the wake of the crisis over Gül's candidacy, so far Turkey is managing this challenge well.

Soli Ozel teaches in Bilgi University's Department of International Relations and is a columnist for the Turkish daily Sabah.
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www.project-syndicate.org

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال
Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Webmaster/Graphic Designer – Ref No. 052/2
Reports to: Head of Public Relations
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Update and maintain the company Website and Intranet in terms of graphic and audio-visual contents, review them regularly to ensure that all the links are functional and suggest new ways to make the website/intranet more interactive and attractive
- Design, produce and reproduce multimedia and graphic materials in the required corporate format
- Manage the audio-visual library including the photo/video archive; arrange and review the photography requirements for the Company's Sana'a-based events for the website, Intranet and other multimedia productions
- Prepare all Company public presentations, slides, brochures and adverts in a timely manner and to corporate standards
- Provide routine summaries of the most/least seen pages and usage and advise users on how to enhance the professional image of the Company's electronic domains
- Liaise with Information Technology section on technical matters

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree or Higher Diploma in Computer Science and Information Technology or other relevant fields
- Minimum 3 years of experience in web development and graphic design. Experience in the management of electronic domains and ASP.NET & other database technologies an asset
- Excellent graphic design and Computer skills
- Creativity and innovation with good communication skills
- Proficiency in English and Arabic, both written and spoken

Job Title: Procurement Supervisor – Ref No. 136/2
Reports to: Head of Procurement & Contracts
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate all procurement activities (both local and international) and ensure that these are carried out in compliance with Company Procurement procedures. Propose improvements to the procurement process if required
- Liaise extensively with departmental colleagues and end-users; analyse/clarify the purchasing requests; make recommendations and propositions and provide effective procurement services in a timely and cost effective manner
- Supervise the purchasing and expediting team and contribute to procurement optimisation in terms of the preparation of quotations, calls for tender and the evaluation of suppliers and contractors
- Maintain an up-to-date Purchase/Service Order Database and a local/international suppliers/contractors' database and provide all documentation required for audit purposes
- Provide all necessary documentation to the Customs Clearance section to facilitate the importing of goods and equipment and monitor and expedite Customs clearance procedures
- Monitor petty cash for local supplies and control procurement costs in partnership with the Budget & Cost Control section

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree or similar in business administration or marketing
- Minimum of 5 years purchasing experience at supervisory level, ideally gained within an oil and gas professional environment
- Very good communication and negotiation skills with extensive knowledge of procurement procedure and activities
- Ability to work autonomously, plus strong planning and organisational skills
- Proficiency in English and Arabic, both written and spoken
- Good Computer and database skills and the ability to understand and operate related systems

Job Title: Plant Security Officer - Ref No. 145
Reports to: Plant Security Coordinator
Work Location: Balhaf Terminal

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Assist the Security Coordinator with day-to-day security issues
- Ensure compliance with security procedures on site
- Maintain constant vigilance and inform supervision of any security-related issues on site
- Carry out thorough security assessments of any venues before meetings or social events
- Develop good relationships with the subcontractors working on site through and with the community liaison team
- Maintain constant awareness of the whereabouts of all Yemen LNG expatriates and provide advice and assistance on security related issues
- Liaise with the contractors' security personnel with respect to any security issues
- Provide regular, written security assessment reports to the supervisor

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree or Diploma in Security or related fields
- Minimum 5 years experience in security related positions, preferably in a military or police environment
- Extensive experience in staff and asset protection
- Ability to build good relations with different communities
- Good presentational and interpersonal skills
- Proficiency in English and Arabic, both written and spoken. Knowledge of French is advantageous
- Good computer and report-writing skills
- Robust physical fitness
- Ability to work under pressure

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 15 September 2007

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Zubayen Trading & Industry Company: A Brief Profile



Zubayen Trading & Industry Company is one of Zubayen Group of Companies. It was established in 1949 and has its headquarters in Sana'a with branches in several Yemeni Governorates as well as in the U.A.E. ZTCO operates domestically, regionally and internationally and over the years established and developed mutually beneficial business relations on sole and exclusive representation basis with a good number of Regional and International Companies who have high reputable brands in their range of products.

The activities of ZTCO includes but not limited to the importation and sale of heavy construction equipment, agricultural machines, electronic and electric appliances including central kitchens for palaces, hospitals, hotels and military camps, building materials and foodstuffs through tenders, special orders or public marketing. ZTCO is also engaged in the provision of the requisite needs (e.g. line pipes, casing, chemicals & industrial cleaners etc) for certain Oil and Gas Production and Exploring Companies working in the Republic of Yemen.

ZTCO Heavy Equipment Department

This department was established in 2003 to serve the Contracting and Construction sectors of the Yemeni economy. It started with HYUNDAI heavy equipment (crawler & wheel excavators, wheel loaders, skid steer loaders and various types of forklifts - diesel, LPG & battery). The department has recently started to expand its activities to include the entire range of AMMANN heavy and light compaction equipment as well as EVERDIGM asphalt mixing plants and tower cranes to support and meet the requirements of Investment and Infrastructure projects going on in the country.

The Heavy Equipment Department keeps good stocks of spare parts for all machines and maintains after sale services to its valuable clients. It also offers outstation services and maintains two mobile workshops with an adequate number of qualified engineers and technicians from Jordan and the Philippines besides Yemenis with good experience in the maintenance of all heavy equipment on sale.

The department has lately participated in the Energy, Water & Construction (EWAC) Exhibition which was held in Sana'a from 8th to 14th August, 2007 mostly with HYUNDAI heavy equipment and achieved dominating presence and success. The purpose of participating in this exhibition was to show the potentiality of ZTCO in the provision of HYUANDAI heavy equipment and the maintenance services the company can offer.



Use of tobacco in Islam -2

By: Dr. Qazi Shaikh Abbas Borhany
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For Yemen Times

Those who do not consider smoking as a sin, are in fact people of less understanding, because if one persists in a minor sin, then the minor sin transforms itself into a major sin. Smokers are parallel to the inhabitants of the Jahannam, who eat harmful dirty plants: No food will be there for them but a poisonous plant, which will neither nourish them nor remove their hunger. Rasullullah (S) says:

"There are five grounds for converting a minor sin into a major sin.

- (1) Persistence in committing a minor sin converts it into a major sin.
- (2) Minimization of the gravity of a minor sin converts it into a major sin.
- (3) Happiness and shamelessness over committing a sin converts a minor sin into a major one.
- (4) Boasting of committing a minor sin among the public converts it into a major one.
- (5) The committing of a minor sin by the learned converts it into a major".

These are the reasons which convert a minor sin into a major one. Minimizing the gravity of a minor sin is a wicked act and not taking any heed of it is like burning straws, which are burnt before setting fire to bigger piles of wood in order that they catch fire from them. Persistence in extravagance and evil acts, and committing sins openly among the people with a fanfare and gusto is a

are forced to inhale the smoke and be themselves smokers as well. In addition to the poisons normally carried in the smoke, if a smoker has a contagious disease, such as tuberculosis or influenza, his exhaled smoke and coughing carry the disease to those around him. Furthermore, a smoker irritates people by the foul smell and poisonous nature of his smoking. If they suffer from asthma or allergies, they are forced to move away from his vicinity. A Hadith says:

"Anyone who believes in Allah and the Qiyamat should not hurt his neighbor". (Narrated by Al Bukh'ari)

Thus, smoking constitutes a definite harm to other people; this is prohibited, it is Right of all people to ask to stop smoking at public places or where people get to gathers. No need to co-operate in this regard as Qur'an guided:

"Co-operate with one another in righteousness and piety, and do not cooperate with one another in sinning and transgression. And fear Allah; verily, Allah is severe in punishment." (Surat al Maedah-No.5, Aytat No.2)

Health problems & cause of impotency

Smoking is harmful to the human mind and reason. An obvious demonstration of this is that one who is addicted to it passes through periods of severe craving, making it hard for him to think, concentrate, solve a problem, or do any important matter, until he smokes. When one smokes, his muscles slacken, and he passes through a brief period of delirium that curtails the thought. His digestive system is also affected, causing him fre-

impotency, has mentioned that with the use of Tobacco and smoking besides general physical weakness, weak nervous system, cerebral debility along with the problems of liver and heart, it is also a major cause of impotency. The French Researchers have reported, and published in the famous British Medical Journal 'Lancet' in 1986, that smoking destroys sexual power; it is a main cause of impotency. Unfortunately, in America, Europe and other parts of the world, smoking is considered as a sign of smartness. According to the latest report of the Royal College of Physicians, the greatest cause of death among men is Cancer. The recorded cause of death among women firstly is breast Cancer and secondly is Lung Cancer, due to smoking. Smoking is a cause of barrenness in women. Smoking also bring menopause in women quite early. Chances of a failure in pregnancy are greater in women, who smoke. Smokers not only destroy their own health, but their habit is also a grave danger for the health of non-smokers. Healthy persons, who do not smoke, have to live in an unhealthy environment, where Tobacco smoke is spread, and the people who are over there also inhale the smoke. This state of smoking is called "Unconscious Smoking", because in such circumstances a person does inhale the smoke. This also causes cancer, and diseases of the lungs and the heart.

Verdicts against the use of Tobacco

Following Fatawa are enough to explain the heinous value of Tobacco.

- (1) Syed Jamaluddin Afghani has also waged war against Tobacco and smoking. He referred the matter of Tobacco to the Ayatullah al Uzma, Mirza Buzurg, Mirza Hasan Sherazi, in Samrah, Iraq. He issued an explicit Fatwa against Tobacco and clearly said: "From today the use of Tobacco in the form of Huqqah, Cigar, Cigarettes and every other kind is war against the Imam al Zaman". Ayatullah Mirza Hasan Shirazi did his best to save the Muslim Ummah from the Lanat of Tobacco. He clearly said: "Tobacco is not only injurious for health but it is Har'am".
- (2) Fatwa of Imam Kabah, Mufti Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz: "One who smoke or eats Tobacco commits a Har'am, because it is included in vices". ('Majallat al Jameat ul Islamiyah', Madinah, page 109, March 1971).
- (3) Fatwa of Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Shaikh Karamuddin Salfi: "Tobacco produces intoxication; it is of bad smell and damages senses and intellect power. Its use is Har'am is proved by the Qur'an and the Sunnah and the research of physicians and common sense".
- (4) Fatwa of Mufti Shaikh Ahmad Sanhuri of Misar: "Tobacco is a Har'am practice".
- (5) Fatwa of Mufti Shaikh Mustafa Hamami of Misar: "Tobacco is Har'am", (Nahzat al Islamiyah).
- (6) Fatwa of Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad Maliki: "It is not lawful to offer

Salaat behind an Imam who utilize Tobacco. When the harm of a Har'am thing has been proved, to say that its use is most common is no argument of making it Halal according to Shariat. In today's society, interest is very much common; every business is involved in it. Does this prove that interest is Halal and Jaez?"

(7) Mufti of United Arab Emirates, Shaikh Saeed bin Khalifah al Kharusi, issued a Fatwa on Jumuaah, the 15th April 1991, "Smoking is Har'am in Islam".

(8) I believe and follow the wordings of Syedi Abdalqadir Hakimuddin, a prince among the friends of Allah, at India. Some three centuries ago he described the uses of Tobacco as follows: "Tobacco is an injurious plant of bad odor and bitter in taste. Eating, chewing, smoking and smelling of Tobacco come under the category of Har'am, according to the principles of the Shariah. Therefore, its use even as Medicine is not Halal, because by affecting the brain it greatly injures the nervous system".

(9) It is unjust to ignore the efforts of Dr. Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin to eliminate the practice of utilization of Tobacco in any form. Due to his efforts thousands of people have left the habit of chewing or smoking Tobacco. War with weapons is easy; but through the pen and words is very difficult. It is the wish and will of the friends of Allah that they use every moment to bring people in to the fold of Shariat. At every such step pious people is needed to guide and show the way to the people as to how one should control ones mind and remain aloof from the evil acts. He further has drawn the attention of the Muslims through his sermons at different countries. He says: "People who are addicted should realize that the place we pronounce the name of Allah and His Rasul (S), we put non pious thing like Tobacco in it? Smoking leads far away from the path of righteousness. Therefore drawing attention towards this matter, All these persons who have been habituated to it, should try to leave it up as soon as possible. They should seek help of Allah and strength to abandon this habit".

(10) It is a fact that in Pakistan there is "Smoke Free City". Yes, 'Hunza'! in the northern area of Pakistan, where people neither sell cigarette nor use it. On the explicit instruction of their spiritual head, Prince Karim Agha Khan, the natives of Hunza strictly follow the practice to eliminate the use of Tobacco. The 'Order' and the 'Obeying' make the valley an ideal place of the world. Prince Agha Khan said: "Do not think that by puffing smoke into the air you are behaving intelligently or in a healthy manner I strongly advise my spiritual children to stay away from cigarette smoking, pipe smoking, cigar smoking, all types of smoking. It is in your own interest, it is for your own health.....that this is a habit which can cause great unhappiness and great ill health, not only to you, but



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in your families generally. This is matter of importance...." (Mumbai, India -23 Feb.1969)

Nefarious Role of Health Ministry & Media

Due to the negligence of Federal Minister of Health and his Ministry, not a single smoker of our country have sense, knowledge and information to understand how much their bad habit can annoy non-smokers. The pleasure of a visit to any public place can be ruined and turns into torture by having to sit near a smoker. Passive smoking is much dangerous. Passive smoking means inhaling other people's Tobacco smoke. This not only produces headache, irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, but is also harmful on the equal level of active smoking. Every educated knows what effects are caused on society by propagation through media. Today the Western nations who imposed smoking in the form of a contagious disease are imposing restrictions on publicity of smoking although alongside they are allowing its use openly and are cultivating Tobacco extensively. But alas smoking is being promoted because Cigarette Companies are sponsoring various games and TV

programs, players and artists. They spend huge amounts for sponsoring sports in different countries for sports fans. In doing so what other purpose they have that people attract towards smoking and that thereby their business should continue to prosper. Vices are like plague and they infect other people like infection and contagious diseases. Those who try to eschew them are saved and this is called Taqwa and piety. Minister of Health and Minister of Information should pay attention on this critical matter in the cumulative interest of poor nation. It is not an ordinary matter as it plays a vital role in making the future of the Nation, a prey to various diseases and the wastage of the national wealth. Government must frame such an effective law that cigarette manufacturing Companies should find it extremely hard to carry on their business and the import of foreign cigarettes should be altogether banned. An effective campaign should be launched against the use of Tobacco.

Dr. Qazi Shaikh Abbas Borhany. PhD (USA), Shahadat al Aalamiyah (Najaf, Iraq). The Writer is Attorney at Law & Religious Scholar and member, Ulama Council of Pakistan.

Meanwhile in a parallel universe



"Man, I could kill a human right now!"

cause of divine punishment. To wage war against every evil is a Talim of Islam. To do Jehaad for this cause is a duty of every Muslim. The lowest grade of Jehad is, one should express hatred against a wicked act openly, if he/she is unable to stop it. The lowest grade of an ordinary Muslim is that one should hate it from the heart. From these examples it must be quite clear that Tobacco is a Har'am. It is not enough for the Government to mention on cigarette boxes that "Smoking is injurious to Health". It is also incumbent on the Government, religiously, legally and ethically, to enforce Ban on Advertisements which encourage smoking through all effective means of media and communication. If the exploiters (manufactures, distributors and shopkeepers) stop this dirty business, the society may move onward towards a healthy condition. If the government overlooks the revenue, earned from cigarette manufactures, positive results should come.

Curse of tobacco

A smoker emits his poisons in the faces of his companions, wife, children, and the environment. It is well established that second-hand smoke is almost as dangerous as first-hand. Thus, whether they like it or not, a smoker's associates

quent nervousness and trembling of the hands. He passes through periods of excitability, irritation, and insomnia. Thus, instead of being slave of Allah, a smoker becomes a slave to his cigarette. He develops a weaker control of his sense and reason. The faculty of reason, clear and unobstructed, is one of divine blessings to the people. Qur'an has praised it in numerous places; and called on people to use it to see the truth, and obey Him in a better way. Allah wants of the believer to be strong and capable of controlling the reigns of his desires. He said (what means):

"Allah wants to let you into His mercy, whereas those who follow the desires want you to drift far away (from the right path)".

("Smoking: A Social Poison", Muhammad al Jibaly, by Al Qur'an wal Sunnah Society of North America).

According to Hakim Sharif Khan, who died in 1807, Tobacco damages the senses and physical power, and it weakens the mind. According to Hindu Vaidis, it weakens the body, slows the pace of breathtaking and impairs digestion. According to Arab physicians, Tobacco gradually weakens the heart. Hakim Sharif Khan in his famous book, "Bahare Shabab", while discussing the causes of

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Book Review

Without Glory in Arabia: The British Retreat from Aden

Reviewed by: Dr. Aviva Klein-Franke
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For Yemen Times

The subject of this book is the history of Aden at the end of British rule. The authors documented the last years of British rule in South Arabia, describing the political development and social unrest in Aden. They analyzed the decisions made by the British government and the process of implementing these decisions by the British administration in Aden.

The book opens with a quotation from a poem by James Nash: "What remained? Some fading photographs".

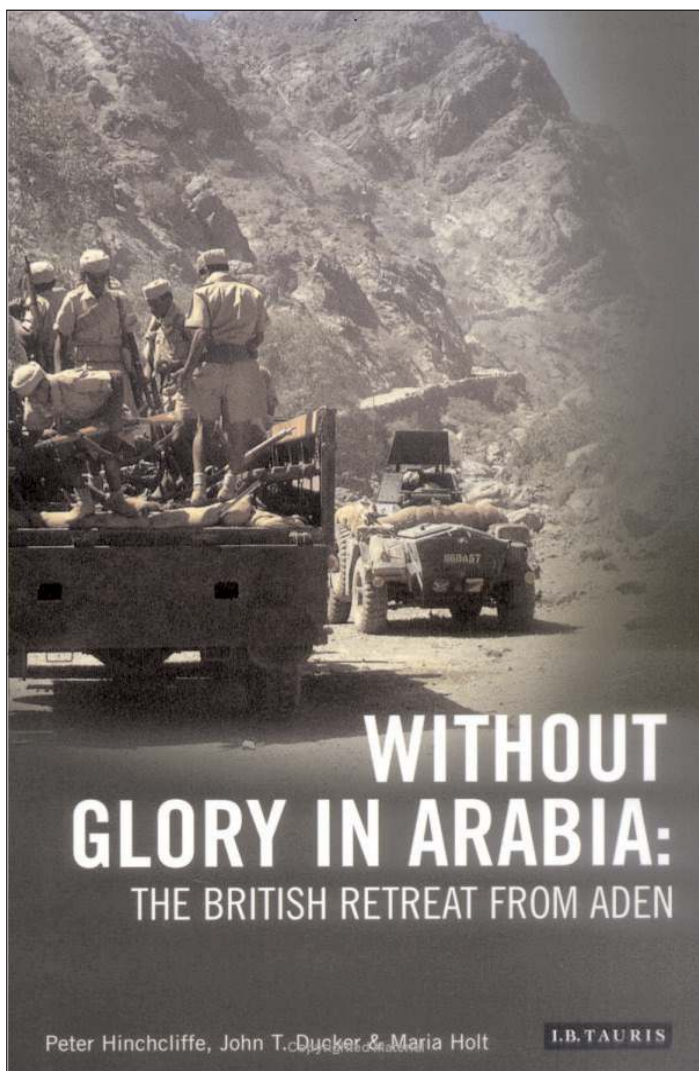
The book is comprised of ten chapters written by three co-authors. Maria Holt, the author of three chapters, is a research fellow at the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster. John Ducker, who wrote four chapters in the book, worked with the British Civil Service in Aden in the years 1960-1967. Peter Hinchcliffe, the author of three chapters, was British Ambassador to Kuwait and to Jordan. Their study is based on first-hand knowledge, details from their own autobiographies as British representatives on duty in Arabia, as well as interviews and archive studies. Hinchcliffe made use of Robin Young's diaries in his research. Young spent eleven years in Aden, from 1956 until the end of British Rule in 1967, when he left the region together with Hinchcliffe (p. 149). The book includes documents which are published for the first time, such as the "Defence White Paper" (p. 173), which described not only the last stages of the British in Aden. It also gives us a picture of how life in Aden was for the locals in these years (p. 181).

Maria Holt began her research on Aden in 1996. In the year 1999 she directed the oral history project at Aden and she studied collective and personal memory. She realized that the British rule is rarely mentioned in the modern history

of South Yemen and that British presence in Southern Arabia is very little valued (p. 6). Among the older generation, however, the British rule was well remembered and held in great esteem. Holt also refers to information taken from interviews with British political officers and civil servants (e.g., J. Shipman, p. 137).

John Ducker describes the political development in Aden during the last decade before the British left the area, analyzing the historical and constitutional background (p. 8). Several mistakes were made when dealt with the local political parties (p. 281). According to Ducker, these failures are due to the lack of foresight that the increasing feeling of national identity in Aden could eventually lead to a struggle against the British.

The last High Commissioner of the Federation of South Arabia, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, expressed the situation by one sentence: "So we left without glory but without disaster". This sad phrase reflects the negative and frustrating short-sighted conclusions of the last ten years of British presence in South Arabia. The British left South Arabia with a bad aftertaste, with solemn and sad feelings, humiliated and running for their lives.



Cover page: Without Glory in Arabia: The British Retreat from Aden by Peter Hinchcliffe, John T. Ducker and Maria Holt

The British policy in South Arabia succeeded in preventing a civil war in the region which was, to my opinion, a very important achievement. When we come to evaluate the British contribution in the region in retrospect, from the beginning of their presence in the year 1839 until

Halakha.

All the groups who were serving the British or working under the British enjoyed an urban environment. A proletariat was created in Aden who felt itself less committed to the traditional tribal order. Its members earned money, made an income, lived in houses or flats in the city and enjoyed the benefits of the city, such as food, health services and infrastructures. The younger generation of Aden was able to absorb western education in the past couple of generations. There were also a number of students who could continue their high school studies in Bombay and in Great Britain.

A new elite class was created in Aden. Young educated people became advocates, physicians and businessmen. There were scholars and academics who were now teachers in British schools and colleges. The leading educated groups in Aden spoke openly on political issues, seeking ways to liberate Aden from the rule of the British, and succeeded in influencing the tribes and the local groups to join them. The population of Aden enjoyed patterns of democracy: they were allowed to assemble, to express their opinion even against the rulers, to establish parties, to demonstrate and to publish their decrees and aims in newspapers. The disruption of the tribal order enabled them to lead their folks towards a new national identity.

Where else in the Arab world was it possible at this time?

Another achievement which the British may be thanked for, took place after the unification of the two Yemenite states, the "South Yemen Socialist State" with the "Yemen Arab Republic". The Yemenite government could send back home the numerous Iraqi and Egyptian teachers, physicians and army officers, because their positions were manned by educated Adanese. The latter were easily integrated into schools, universities, hospitals and in the tourists industry in the main cities of north Yemen. Furthermore, the elite of South Yemen also helped to modernize the Republic of Yemen. Their knowledge of English helped them as mediators between the many delegations who were sent by national and international agencies for developing countries to work in Yemen.

As a conclusion on the period of British rule in South Arabia: although the last ten years were tough and unpleasant for all parties involved, it seems that not everything was negative, and that the British left a little more than mere "fading photographs" in southern Arabia for future generations to see.

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CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Father of free Yemenis and the cultural consciousness of Yemen Muhammad Mahmoud Al-Zubairi

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Al-Zubairi, Muhammad Mahmoud (1919-1965), was a Yemeni poet, intellectual, politician, and revolutionist. He was born in the Old City of Sana'a to a middle class family of judges, as was the profession of his father. When Al-Zubairi was 10, his father died and he was raised by his elder cousin. Having grown up in a Sufic and spiritual environment and studied the Holy Qur'an in Qubbat Al-Mahdi Mosque's *Kuttab*, he then joined the Scientific School in Sana'a. He would later resign from his study at the Scientific School to instead embark on a psychological journey to the Great Mosque in Sana'a. In 1937, Al-Zubairi left Yemen for Saudi Arabia in an effort to realize one of the pillars of his Islamic faith. He stayed in Mecca for a year and then departed for Cairo, Egypt in 1939 to re-initiate his academic study, joining the College of Sciences' House. In September 1940, Al-Zubairi, along with other Yemeni colleagues, established in Cairo, a national-political movement called the *Yemeni Youths Detachment*. After he returned to Yemen in 1941, he was affected profoundly by different aspects of civilized advancements in Egypt. He presented to Imam Yahya, the ruler of Yemen, a program to establish the *Association of the Propagation of Virtue*, however, Imam Yahya vacillated on the execution of the program. Al-Zubairi continued to voice his opposition against the imam's policies, criticizing him in mosques and requesting necessary reforms. This behavior enraged Imam Yahya and consequently facilitated the imprisonment of Al-Zubairi, along with his fellows in the Al-Ahnoon Prison in Hajjah governorate. Al-Zubairi remained in prison for nearly a year and was finally released in 1942. He subsequently departed for Ta'izz, which ironically was the residence of Ahmed ibn Yahya, the heir apparent, who pretended to support Al-Zubairi and his fellows, but eventually changed his attitudes began to expose them to threats, torture and murder. These events encouraged Al-Zubairi to escape and seek refuge in Aden.

In Aden, Al-Zubairi established in 1944 with other free Yemenis the *Free Yemeni Movement*, however due to national reasons the movement's name was changed to the *Great Yemeni Assembly* in 1946. He also issued the "Voice of Yemen" newspaper which was the mouthpiece of the new movement. In 1948, the first revolution broke out in Sana'a and Imam Yahya was killed by Abdullah Al-Wazeer. Al-Zubairi returned to Sana'a and was appointed to the position of Minister of Education, however this revolution was short-lived, as Ahmed ibn Yahya, seized power in Sana'a and started executing many free Yemenis that had participated in the unsuccessful revolution against his late father. Al-Zubairi was not in Sana'a during this period as he had escaped danger, departing Yemen for Pakistan and remained there for more than 4 years. After the outbreak of the 1952's revolution in Egypt, Al-Zubairi left Pakistan for Cairo and was elected president of the *Yemeni Union* in Egypt and reissued the "Voice of Yemen" newspaper. He spent several years traveling between Egypt and Sudan and collected contributions for the support of Union activities. In September 1962, the Yemeni revolution broke out against the imamate and a new republican regime was proclaimed in Yemen. Al-Zubairi was recalled to Sana'a and was re-appointed Minister of Education in the newly formed government. In May 1964, Al-Zubairi was appointed Vice Prime Minister for Education, Information, and National Guidance Affairs and also attained a position on the President's Council.

Al-Zubairi was intensely preoccupied with supporting and preserving the nascent revolution against the threats of conspiracies of monarchists and the ambitions of some tribes. In 1964, Al-Zubairi was the president of *Amran Conference* for different Yemeni tribes in which its final statement included proposals for the reformation of the state's administrative, financial, and political affairs. Subsequently, in the beginning of 1965, Al-Zubairi founded a new party calling it "*Hizbollah*", which had many supporters in Yemen. Al-Zubairi settled down in Barat village (north of Sana'a) continuing to inform people about the principles of his new party and continued to issue the "Voice of Yemen" newspaper as the mouthpiece of the party.

Al-Zubairi, the father of free Yemenis and the revolutionists' poet, is one of the most famous symbols of Yemeni revolution and poetry. He has more than 15 literary and political works with some other handwritten unpublished works. His early talent in poetry was appeared in 1938 when he published a poem in the book entitled "*Al-Tajj Al-Muthahhab*" (The Gilded Crown) written by Ahmed Al-A'ansi. Most of his literary and poetic works focused on Yemeni people's suffering under the imamate and on other Arabic/Islamic causes such as Palestine and Kashmir. Published works by Al-Zubairi include: "*A Pray in the Inferno*" (Cairo, 1961), "*The Poetry's Revolution*" (Cairo, 1962), and Al-Zubairi's book of complete poetic work, published in 2004 by the Ministry of Culture. Also two divans were published posthumously in 1983 entitled "*The Voice of the People*" and "*A Spot in the Darkness*". Among his political books are "*The Imamate and its Danger on Yemeni Unity*" (Cairo, 1972) and "*The Islam as a Religion and a Revolution*". "*Ma'asaat Waq Al-Waq*" (The Tragedy of Waq Al-Waq) is Al-Zubairi's unique novel which was written and published in Egypt in 1960. The island of *Waq Al-Waq* is a mythical place derived from "*The Thousand and One Nights*", the famous collection of stories. "*The Tragedy of Waq Al-Waq*" spiritually delves into different aspects of Yemen and Yemeni people's tragedy such as the trinity of poverty, ignorance, and disease, while also explains Al-Zubairi's vision about a national and political alternative as opposed to the imamate.

Many individuals inside and outside Yemen experienced trepidation with respect to Al-Zubairi and his new party. However, he did not obtain the opportunity to explain to the people his true vision as he was assassinated on April 1, 1965, when several bullets penetrated his heart, killing him instantly. Al-Zubairi still represents the cultural consciousness of Yemen in which his life and struggle against the imamate formed a great transformational period in Yemen's history.






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Job Seekers

- Ghailan Al-Kawaty, Bachelor in English language, Sana'a University. Contact: 734812869
- Fuad Al-Mutawkel, bachelor degree in English language, diploma in computer + courses in network from cisco academy, looking for a job at any company. Contact: 777733607
- Abdulkarim, diploma computer, CCNA1,CCNA3 from cisoo networking Academy, has an experiences in computer and networks maintenance. English writing and spoken. Contact: 777 504 558
- A 25 year old Russian physiotherapy specialist, has a certificate from a Habarovsk University in physiotherapy wants to be employed in Yemen. Contact through email at lonely_margo@mailgogle.info.
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- Good appearance and vitality.

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- Excellent at English (writing, speaking and reading).
- Excellent at Arabic (writing, speaking and reading).

Qualified people can email their C.V. in English to (sas4cs@yemen.net.ye).

administrator network), Bachelor in English language, Sana'a university. Contact: 711 474 143

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Yemen & India: A historic connection

Connected by trading and commercial interests, the relationship between Yemen and India dates back thousands of years and has remained strong into the present-day. Harbors in both countries have provided a gateway through which Yemenis and Indians immigrate and establish thriving communities. More than 150,000 Indian citizens residing in India are of Yemeni origin and many Yemenis have Indian roots.

When the revolution broke out in Northern Yemen, India was one of the first countries to intervene and provide assistance. Additionally, when the south of Yemen freed itself from British colonialism, India hurriedly established relations with the south and supported the Yemeni people in various developmental fields.

Yemeni-Indian relations were strengthened through the establishment of various organizations and programs. The Joint Ministerial Committee, founded in 1993 by the two countries, held many meetings in both Sana'a and New Delhi, cooperating in forging developments in the commercial, industrial, agricultural, medical, cultural and scientific fields. India also assisted Yemen in the establishment of the country's parliament.

Indian investment companies are heavily involved in Yemen's oil and gas sector, including the expansion of Aden and Marib refineries and the building of petrochemical factories. An Indian company is currently working on establishing Ra's Isa refinery, aiming to clear 60,000 barrels of oil in its first stage, and then increasing to 85,000 barrels during the second stage.

Frequent exchange of visits between higher-ups of both countries is evidence



Taj Mahal, in Agra-India

of continued good relations and cooperation in several fields, especially the oil, gas, minerals, education and training sectors.

Republic of India
India is located in southern Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan and Afghanistan to the northwest; China, Nepal and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east.

Across the Indian Ocean, India's neighbors include Maldives islands to the southwest and Sri Lanka and Indonesia to the southeast. Globally, India has the second-largest population, estimated at 1.136 billion and contains approximately one-sixth of the world's population.

Some of the oldest civilizations originated in India and the country has

been an important center of trading throughout the ages. The predominant religion in India is Hinduism (80.5 percent of the population), however, the country is home to the third largest Muslim population (13.4 percent in 2001) and also includes Zoroastrians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and even a small percentage of Christians and Jews.

India was a British colony before gaining independence in 1947. As a result of this colonization, English is considered the language of trade, politics and the literate classes. However, there are over 216 languages spoken in India, the most prevalent being Hindi, followed by Bengali.

India's ethnic and religious diversity have left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of Yemen.

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